

DAY 9: Time to be joyful – the life changing good news

*“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace”*

Isaiah 9:6

These words from the prophet Isaiah described the baby Joseph, Mary and the shepherds were looking at in the manger. Jesus was from the lineage of David. Prophecies about the Messiah were unfolding before their eyes. What an indescribable joy that must have been!

The titles given by Isaiah describe Jesus as the Messiah and king; describe the purpose of his birth. His life would be a living sacrifice. His ruling would be forever and bring wholeness. His signs and marvels would reveal He is God. His humanity would qualify him as the Lamb of God for the salvation of the world. Those were news that changed their present then and ours today. These are news our loved ones and the world around us still need to hear so that their joy can be complete.

What happened at that manger changed the course of history and opened the door for mankind to eternity with God. Two thousand years later, what do you see when you look at the manger? Jesus is more than a porcelain figurine in a nativity set. The manger was the beginning of His journey to save us.

The shepherds heard the news and went to the manger. May you take the time to visit the manger in your heart one more time and marvel at God's love for us all, giving us His son. May you invite others "to go with you" to see what happened in Bethlehem so that they too can celebrate Christ.

We all need the savior to truly celebrate with joy.

Christmas starts with Christ and thus, is always time to rejoice. Sing today's carol with joy and gratitude to God for sending us His son. May He find you joyful and faithful in sharing this good news to all around.

Adeste Fideles



O COME, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him
Born the king of angels:

O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of Heaven above;
Glory to God
In the highest:

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing: